

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

June 7, 2006

According to the 2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, 24% of the homeless population reported that they became homeless due to job loss and 89% of homeless individuals were not employed at the time of the Count. People who have not worked for an extended period of time face considerable barriers when trying to re-enter the workforce. Transitional employment provides people who are hardest to employ with opportunities to develop job and social skills that are necessary to succeed in the workplace.

Non-profit businesses with transitional employment programs incur higher overhead costs than other businesses due to the need for increased supervision, counseling and training of the hardest-to-employ population. Therefore, such agencies are at a competitive disadvantage in obtaining County contracts, in which estimated cost is a significant factor.

The County currently provides a local small business enterprise preference program to enhance purchasing and contracting opportunities for local small businesses. The program assures that all businesses are provided equal opportunities in County purchasing and contracting activities. Extending the small business contracting preference to business entities that provide transitional employment

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

services would provide an opportunity to expand the number of transitional job opportunities for the homeless and other people who have been out of the workforce for an extended period of time. The City of Los Angeles implemented a program of this type in November, 2005.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel, working in conjunction with the Office of Small Business, to report back in 30 days on the feasibility of extending the County's local small business enterprise preference program to non-profit businesses that provide transitional jobs and supportive services to the County's most difficult to employ population. In preparing their report, the departments should review the similar program implemented by the City of Los Angeles in November, 2005, and consider its applicability to the County's purchasing and contracting activities.